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PHASES OF POULTRY WORK

(Feeding)

by

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DEMONSTRATION

FEEDING FOR EGG PRODUCTION

In order to obtain eggs in winter natural conditions must be followed as closely as possible.

A hen on range during the natural laying season - April, May and June, has

1. Insects and worms
2. Green feed
3. Grit
4. Lime
5. Grains or seeds
6. Water
7. Exercise

In winter these may be supplied by,

1. Plenty of milk, tankage, meat scraps.
2. Cabbage, mangels, alfalfa, sprouted oats.
3. Gravel, or grit.
4. Oyster or clam shells.
5. Whole grains or mash.
6. Water and milk.
7. Plenty of litter in scratch pen or poultry house in which grain is scattered.

HOW TO FEED

The method of feeding is as important as the kind of feed used. Hens must be kept in a good healthy condition if they are to produce eggs. Without exercise the hens will become over fat and lazy, especially those of the larger breeds, so every bit of grain fed in winter should be scattered in deep dry litter which will give the required exercise.

In the morning scatter about one-third of the day's grain ration in the litter, then about eleven o'clock open the hopper to give free access to the dry mash. If a wet mash is to be fed it may be given at this time. Just before roosting time give the remaining two-thirds of the day's grain ration so that the hens may go to roost with full crops.

WHAT TO FEED

Balanced Rations

Hens need a balanced ration if they are to give a profit in return for feed and care. By balanced ration we mean that all of the necessary elements are present for the manufacture of eggs, as well as for the maintenance of the body. A variety of such rations are given on the following pages, showing how the products of the farm may be used to the best advantage.

Prepared Feeds

Prepared feeds are usually much more expensive and many times contain objectionable weed seeds.

Tonic

If a tonic is needed dissolve two heaping table-spoon fulls of Epsom salts in each gallon of hot water to be used in mixing wet mash. The wet or moist mash fed warm at noon during November and December will usually start egg production. This may be continued throughout the winter with good results. Never mix more than will be eaten while it is still warm.

Milk and Tankage

If only a small amount of milk is available it may be used in the wet mash to good advantage. If the supply is plentiful it may be fed either in waterers or troughs. These should be cleaned often enough to keep them free from harmful bacteria. When hens have all the milk they will drink less tankage or meat scrap may be used. Less digestive trouble will result if sour milk is used, though sweet milk is just as good in food value. Where milk is not available, tankage or meat scraps should be mixed in the dry mash or fed from a hopper.

Green Food

Cabbage, alfalfa leaves or sprouted oats should be fed. Lawn clippings dried and stored may be used to good advantage. Mangel beets make an excellent succulent feed but do not take the place of leaf or green feed.

Grit

Gravel or very coarse sand is an absolute necessity if hens are to remain in good condition for without it the food that enters the gizzard is not properly digested.

Lime

Gravel or sand does not contain enough lime to furnish shells for the eggs or that needed to keep the bones in good condition. The easiest way to supply this is to keep oyster shells or clam shells before the hens at all times, unless plenty of limestone is to be found on the place. Milk also supplies lime.

Water

An abundant supply of clean fresh water should be placed before the hens both summer and winter, for besides being needed to keep the hen in good condition it is absolutely necessary for egg production since three-fourths of the egg is water. In winter the water should be above freezing.

Grains

The following rations have proven to be especially successful for egg production. Some have been used in egg laying contests, some at experiment farms, and some for the ordinary farm flock. The house should be kept clean so that disease germs will not be picked up with the scratch feed which should be fed in deep litter. The mash is most economically fed from a hopper such as the one illustrated on the last page of this leaflet.

100 hens will consume an average of 15 lbs scratch feed per day, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of mash. This varies somewhat with the different breeds.

SCRATCH FEEDS

I. 100 lbs cracked corn
100 lbs whole corn
100 lbs barley
100 lbs oats

II. 100 lbs oats
200 lbs whole corn

III 200 lbs cracked corn
100 lbs oats

IV. 100 lbs cracked corn
100 lbs feed wheat

MASHES

I. 100 lbs bran
100 lbs middlings
200 lbs corn meal
100 lbs tankage - 60%protein
5 lbs salt

II. 100 lbs ground oats
100 lbs ground corn
100 lbs ground barley
100 lbs gluten
100 lbs tankage - 60%protein

III 100 lbs ground corn
200 lbs ground oats
100 lbs tankage
4 lbs salt

IV. 100 lbs wheat bran
100 lbs shorts
100 lbs ground oats
100 lbs corn meal
100 lbs meat scraps
5 lbs salt

SCRATCH FEEDS(Continued)

V. 100 lbs feed wheat
100 lbs cracked corn

VI. (a)

200 lbs feed wheat
100 lbs oats
or

(b)

100 lbs wheat
100 lbs corn
or

(c)

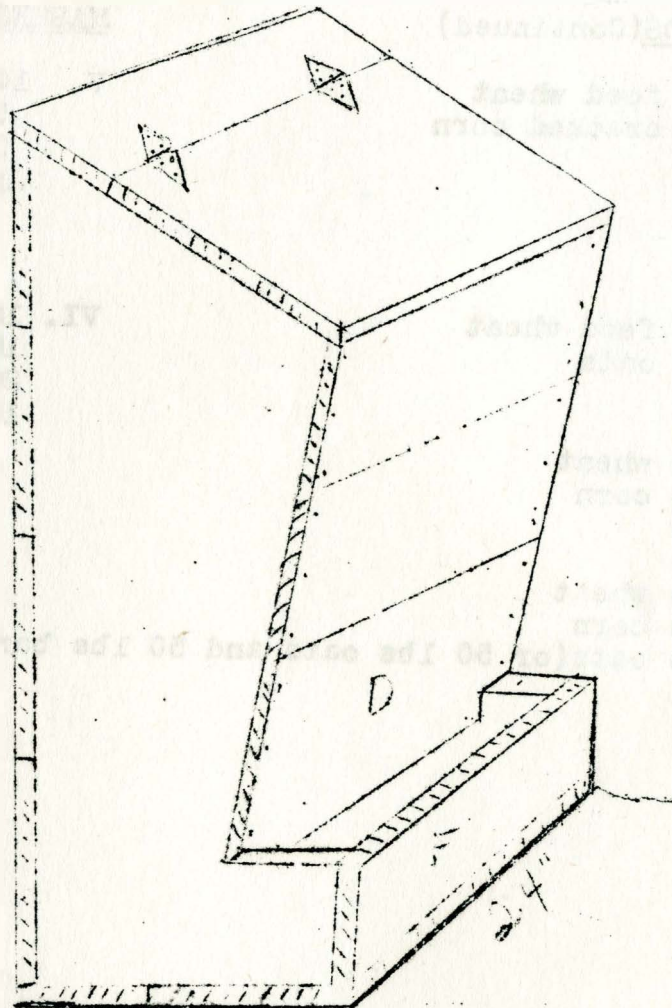
100 lbs wheat
100 lbs corn
100 lbs oats(or 50 lbs oats and 50 lbs barley)

MASHES(Continued)

V. 100 lbs wheat bran
50 lbs shorts
25 lbs tankage
All the sour milk they
will drink

VI. 100 lbs corn meal
100 lbs middlings
200 lbs ground oats
100 lbs tankage or
meat scrap
5 lbs salt

FEED HOPPER



Construction

- a - The board D should project 1" or $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below CE.
 - b - A thin strip 1" or $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide can be fastened to the front F sloping down into the feed box to prevent waste of feed.
1. The above hopper will hold more than 100 lbs of mash, about two weeks' supply for 100 hens on full ration.
 2. If greater capacity is desired the hopper can be made wider than 24 inches.
 3. For grit and shell, smaller hoppers with partition are easily constructed.